

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CESAS-SO P.O. BOX 889
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

DISTRICT REGULATION
No. 385-1-11

29 September 1994

Safety and Occupational Health Office
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PREGNANCY SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

1. Purpose: To ensure that all female team members are physically suited to perform their assigned duties when pregnant, and protect them from adverse health effects due to their work environment. Reproductive hazards include mutagens which cause chromosome damage and teratogens which affect the development of the fetus.

2. Applicability: This regulation applies to all pregnant Savannah District team members.

3. References:

- a. Army Regulation 40-5, Preventive Medicine.
- b. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Labor-management Relations Agreement, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 2176.

4. General: The pregnancy surveillance program consists of the following program elements:

- a. Identification of work areas with potential reproductive health hazards.
- b. Counseling and informing pregnant team members about potential hazards.
- c. Procedures to notify occupational health clinic.
- d. Assessing job assignment when pregnancy is known.
- e. Program evaluation.

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5. Work Area Hazards.

a. The following work environments may pose a health risk for pregnant team members.

(1) Hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste (HTRW) sites that have been characterized as having the potential for exposing team members to hazardous material above the action limits.

(2) Any working environment that requires team members to wear a respirator.

(3) Any work site that involves lead abatement or the creation of lead dust.

(4) Strenuous lifting of heavy materials.

b. Pregnant team members who operate a Video Display Terminal (VDT) will have the right to request a transfer to another available position. NOTE: There is no conclusive scientific proof stating that VDT exposure does affect the health of the fetus.

6. Pregnant Team Members Should:

a. Notify supervisors immediately when pregnancy is diagnosed.

b. Notify the occupational health nurse of any health conditions or complications that occur during work hours.

7. Supervisor Will:

a. Review all Material Safety Data Sheets and notify the Safety Office of any chemicals listed as reproductive hazard.

b. Review pregnant team members' Job Hazard Analysis for potential health hazards to fetus (see item 5) and discuss alternate job duties to prevent being exposed to health hazards.

c. If a pregnant team member is covered by union contract, make them aware of the union's agreement on safety and health for pregnant workers (Article 34, section 23 of labor agreement).

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8. Safety Office Will:

a. Evaluate and identify job duties that may be hazardous to pregnant team members.

b. Assist and guide supervisors (upon request) of any potential health hazards in the workplace.

9. Occupational Health Nurse Will:

a. Provide counseling to pregnant team members on health issues related to their duty assignments.

b. Provide educational and information material on pregnancy health hazards.

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Colonel, Corps of Engineers
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